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the author's well-deserved reputation for sound learning lends those statements great weight, while the reflection and theories which he bases on established facts can be judged on their own merits and will be found deeply thoughtful and stimulating if not always convincing. Industry and learning can place the palpable events, the main facts of the period before us. It remains for the trained judgment and severely controlled imagination of the individual historian to interpret those facts and construct the personality. Nothing is more evident than that scholars of equal authority may differ as the poles; not in the importance which all must attribute to the reign of Elizabeth, but in the greatness of the part they ascribe to the queen herself in shaping England's destiny. One school of historians may emphasize the inevitable rise to greatness of a race with the characteristics and environment of the English, another may lay greatest stress upon the sagacity and tireless energy of Burghley, a third, and to this class Dr. Creighton belongs, is inclined to regard Elizabeth as wiser than her ministers and as the true teacher and leader of her people. "She saw what England might become and nursed it into the knowledge of its power." To Walsingham alone he gives the credit of having ever succeeded in forcing Elizabeth to act with decision. But no one element and no one personality can create the greatness of a nation.

W. F. TILTON.

*Puritanism in the Old World and in the New*, from its Inception in the Reign of Elizabeth to the Establishment of the Puritan Theocracy in New England. A Historical Handbook. By the Rev. J. GREGORY, Edinburgh. (New York, Chicago and Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. 1896. Pp. x, 406.)

UNDER this title a prominent Scotch Congregationalist has gathered the gleanings of extensive reading in the modern literature of Puritanism, and of occasional, though much less full, examination of its sources. The author disclaims all intention of writing a "history of English Puritanism," preferring the "form of a handbook" to the more ambitious attempt. The work thus described is interesting and readable, bearing evidence of much painstaking industry in assembling material and in collecting the opinions of many writers who have treated the Puritans from the most diverse points of view. Various aspects of Puritanism and of leading Puritan character are discussed in short paragraphs, the whole being arranged in general chronologic sequence and tracing the outline of the movement from its beginnings to about the time of the union of the four Congregational colonies of New England. No cause could wish for a more fervent or admiring champion. Yet the impression of the work is in large degree disappointing. The limitations of the author's method produce a feeling not so much of condensation as of fragmentariness. Though the parental relationship of Puritanism to free institu-

tions and to modern democracy is vigorously asserted, the reader feels that the general connection of the Puritan movement with its political and social environment is but partially indicated, and that Mr. Gregory might well have followed the story of English Puritanism further than the reign of Elizabeth without transgressing the bounds which he has set for himself in the title of his volume. The evident and cheerfully acknowledged bias of the author has occasionally led him into assertions of a high degree of rashness, as, for example, the declaration that the Reformers "certainly succeeded in setting up a Church as different from and as diametrically opposed to the Church which it supplanted as Christianity is opposed to Hindooism." There are also a considerable number of errors, of no great importance when taken singly, perhaps, but making in the aggregate a disfigurement to the handbook; the numbering of Cotton Mather among those prominent in New England circles of 1648 is an illustration.

W. W.

*Napoléon et Alexandre I<sup>er</sup>. L'Alliance Russe sous le premier Empire.*

Par ALBERT VANDAL. Tome III. La Rupture. (Paris: Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1896. Pp. 607.)

COUNT VANDAL's belief in the wisdom and stability of the present alliance between France and Russia gives point to his criticisms of the Tilsit agreement as he writes the story of its failure. His first volumes described the relations of Alexander and Napoleon from their meeting on the raft in the Niemen until the end of 1810. This, the third, volume explains the steps by which both emperors abandoned an impossible position and prepared for the inevitable struggle. The last incident related in it is Napoleon's interview at Wilna, July 1, 1812, with Balachof, Alexander's emissary, some days after the Grand Army had crossed the Niemen and after the Russians had begun their strategic retreat. The struggle was inevitable, acutely remarks Count Vandal, because the rights which Napoleon could justly claim, in accordance with the treaty, had been created "à coups d'épée" and were for the conquered Russians "une conséquence de la défaite, une forme de la contrainte, et la contrainte ne maintient ses effets qu'à condition d'agir et de renouveler ses prises." "Il y a," he adds, "conflit insoluble entre le droit napoléonien et le droit naturel des États à s'orienter suivant leurs intérêts momentanés ou leurs inclinations, et le premier, fondé uniquement sur la victoire, portant en lui ce vice irrémissible, ne peut se soutenir que par la permanence et la continuité de la victoire."

Actual fighting did not begin for more than a year after the last sincere efforts to reach a good understanding had failed. Napoleon wished first not merely to organize the Grand Army, but also to move it across Germany so that he might strike the Russians within their own frontiers. This was exactly what Alexander wanted and was determined to wait for,